PRESENTATION BIOGRAPHIES – February 16, 2012

Sustainable Innovation using Open Data
Presented by Luke Closs, Co-founder, Recollect

Luke Closs is a local tech innovator who enjoys building software using open data and open standards for citizens and municipalities. He built Recollect, a waste collection notification service, and a model that gives every municipality the opportunity to communicate with their citizens more effectively. Luke wants to bring the civic innovation occurring in big cities to citizens everywhere.

Open Data Initiatives, Mobile Devices & Geo-Applications
Presented by Susan Romeo-Gilbert, Principle Platform Strategist, Microsoft

Susan has over 22 years of experience in the IT Industry which spans the Caribbean, UK, USA and Canada and includes a variety of industrial sectors such as Telecommunications, Utilities, Oil and Gas, Finance and Banking. Susan is currently a Principal Platform Strategist with Microsoft Canada, where her focus is to garner in-depth business knowledge of targeted Customer's and their LoB Decision Makers, to determine core business issues, in an effort to reinforce the value of the Microsoft Technology to the Customer's overall business strategic direction/opportunities/pains. Susan has undertaken Business and Technical Management, as well as SME and Program Lead roles for several GIS, Business Intelligence, Enterprise Architecture and Data Warehousing projects. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Geographic & Geodetic Information Systems (GGIS) from University College London (UCL), England, as well as a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computer Science (Major) & Botany-Environmental Science and Ecology (Minor), from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad. Susan also holds a post-graduate certificate in Executive Management (EMP) from Simon Fraser University, B.C.

Building the City of Vancouver's Open Data GIS Platform
Presented by Meng Li, GIS Applications Manager, City of Vancouver

Meng Li is the City of Vancouver's GIS Applications Manager in the GIS and CADD Services Branch. He has been the City's VanMap technical architect and the technical lead for the City's Open Data GIS platform. His more than 10-year work experience with the City covers Web-GIS application development, geospatial database (e.g. Oracle Spatial) design and development, spatial analysis and new-geography of the GeoWeb. Prior to joining the City, Meng had worked as a research fellow with the Australia National Key Centre for Social Applications of GIS in University of Adelaide for two years and he got his Ph.D. in Geography from Gent University of Belgium.

Improve Operations with Volunteer Geographic Information (VGI)
Presented by Karen Stewart, Industry Manager - Public Works, ESRI Canada

Karen Stewart currently holds the title of Industry Manager, Public Works, Business Development at Esri Canada. She just finished her tenure on the board of directors for the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) International. She is currently on the education committee for American Public Works Association (APWA) British Columbia. She is past chair of the advisory board for the diploma and degree programs in GIS at BCIT -British Columbia Institute of Technology. She has over 25 years experience in the municipal/utility mapping, GIS, and public works fields. During her career, Stewart has been involved in many industry associations; the project management and implementation of many new IT, GIS, and CAD technologies; and several corporate enterprise solutions.

Identifying the Origins and Destinations of Transit Customers Using Farebox Data
Presented by Michael Grant, Manager - Monitoring & Forecasting, BC Transit

Michael Grant is the Manager of the Monitoring and Forecasting department at BC Transit. His team is responsible for monitoring the productivity and performance of the company's systems, with a key focus on ridership. Prior to joining BC Transit, Michael worked as a transportation planning analyst at TransLink (South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority) where he created and implemented several innovative ideas for streamlining GIS analysis and information display in the transit world. He brings over 8 years of transit and GIS industry experience to his role. In addition, Michael has an Honours degree in Environmental Science from the University of British Columbia and an Advanced Diploma in GIS from the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Regional Traffic Data Systems (RTDS) – The Road to the Future of "Open Data"
Presented by Keenan Kitasaka, Manager - Intelligent Transportation Systems, TransLink and
Henry Ng, Project Manager, Intelligent Transportation Systems, TransLink

Keenan Kitasaka

Keenan Kitasaka has worked as the Manager, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for twelve years at the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority, also known as "TransLink". In his current role, Keenan is corporately responsible at TransLink for the ITS Department and supports internal projects that involve ITS. Keenan also provides ITS services to the "ITS Advisory Board", working with external member agencies to coordinate and develop regional ITS programs. Keenan has led many ITS projects during this time, including an award winning integrated web portal called iMove and the Regional Condition Reporting System (RCRS) which allows agencies to input information into iMove. More recently, Keenan is leading the effort to design and build a cell phone tracking project called "Regional Traffic Data Systems" to provide speed profiles in major corridors throughout the Region. As well, he is currently working on the BC Regional ITS Strategic Plan, which will develop the next 10 years of the ITS program in the region.

Prior to his work at TransLink, Keenan was employed by the BC Ministry of Transportation and Highways as the Senior Traffic Management Engineer for approximately 8 years where he worked on many ITS related projects. Keenan serves on various committees in TransLink and in other organizations.

Keenan was an ITS Canada Board Director for 4 years and remains actively involved in ITS Canada committees. In 2010, Keenan was recognized as the "Distinguished ITS Canada Member of the Year" for his contribution to the growth and support of ITS in Canada.

Keenan graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1982 with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree before returning to earn a Masters of Engineering degree in Transportation Engineering in 1985. Keenan has been a professional engineer for over 22 years.

Henry Ng
Henry Ng, P.Eng., is a project manager for the ITS Department within the "Roads group" at TransLink. Mr. Ng spent over 18 years of his career in the intelligent Transportation System (ITS) industry, both with the public and private sectors. Mr. Ng has extensive experience in the complete project cycle of ITS projects, from project conceptualization and development, program strategy planning, feasibility study, conceptual design, detailed design, implementation, contract management and administration, operations and maintenance.

How to Run an Open Data Hackathon
Presented by Herb Lainchbury, President and CEO, Dynamic Solutions Inc.
Herb is the Founder of OpenDataBC, an online community of open data enthusiasts in BC as well as the CEO of Dynamic Solutions Inc. a BC corporation. He has extensive experience in enterprise IT specializing in Web 2.0 and Gov 2.0 and spends much of his time helping clients leverage the latest trends in open information technology including open source software, open data, mash-ups and cloud computing.

The Journey to Open Data
Presented by David Wrate, Director of Citizen Engagement, Province of BC
David Wrate is the Director of Citizen Engagement for the Province of BC. Actively engaged in open data for the past two years, he was and is in the thick of developing and growing the Provinces' open data program. He's keenly interested in how data can be used to improve lives but is a self - admitted GIS noob.

Open Data: How the Vancouver Public is Using It
Presented by Darrin Fast, Technology Planner, City of Vancouver
Darrin has been assisting the City with its Open Data program (usually) on an as-time permits basis. Darrin endorses open data and open government and see them as key in enabling positive change in government and public engagement. Darrin is also in the final stages of finishing off a Computing Science Degree at Simon Fraser University.

Why Open Data?
Presented by David Eaves, Open Government and Open Data Advocate
A public policy entrepreneur, open government activist and negotiation expert, David is retained by several governments to advise on open government and open data, works with two spin-offs of the Harvard Negotiation Project and advises businesses on open source strategies and community management.

David writes on open innovation, public policy, public service sector renewal, open source and network systems. He posts multiple times a week on his blog, publishes regularly in various forums including the Globe and Mail website, the Toronto Star, and written numerous chapters such as his piece in the O'Reilly Media book on Open Government. He is also frequently invited to speak on these issues, as well as on open government, policy making, negotiation and strategy, to executives, policymakers, and students.

Open Data Panel
Moderated by James Andrusiw, Application Services Manager, City of Coquitlam
Our panel of local GIS professionals will share their insights and experience producing and using Open Data catalogues within their organizations. We will discuss recommendations for people considering or currently using Open Data and future innovations on the horizon.

The format will pose several rounds of questions ranging from "getting started" to "what's next?" and seminar attendees will be encouraged to ask their own questions of the panellists.

Panellists:

- Greg Babinski, Finance and Marketing Manager, King County GIS Center
- Herb Lainchbury, President, Dynamic Solutions Inc
- Jonathan Mark, GIS Manager, City of Vancouver
- Sean Simpson, GIS Manager, City of Surrey
- Derik Woo, Manager, Geomatics Services, Township of Langley
- David Wrate, Director of Citizen Engagement, Province of BC